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COURT DISMISSES SUIT AGAINST PAPER  
ATHENS, GREECE

An Athens court has thrown out two suits involving a Cypriot journalist and the publisher of a daily newspaper accused of having links with the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, the court said today.

The decision was based on a legal technicality, a court spokesman said. The one-day trial was held in May but the decision was made public today.

The court rejected a suit filed by George Bobolas, the publisher of Greece's largest circulation paper, Ethnos. He was claiming \$379,000 in damages to his reputation from a book by Paul Anastasi that alleged the left-wing newspaper was published in cooperation with the KGB's disinformation department.

A counter-suit for \$1.5 million filed by Anastasi, a 34-year-old Cypriot journalist who works as an Athens-based correspondent for The New York Times and London Daily Telegraph, was also turned down.

Anastasi said his professional reputation was damaged by articles about him in Ethnos and demanded compensation for tapping of his telephone and publication of the conversations in the newspaper.

The court ruled that the damages suits should have been presented to the criminal courts which judged earlier cases involving Bobolas and Anastasi and said the suits could not be transferred to the jurisdiction of a civil court.

"The rejection was made purely and simply for legal reasons," Anastasi's lawyer, Zisis Constantinou, said.

But a two-year-long legal tussle between the two men is scheduled to continue later this year with an appeal court hearing the phone-tapping case.

Bobolas and the newspaper's editor, Alexandros Filippopoulos, were each sentenced to five-month jail terms last April for making use of illegally acquired tapes of Anastasi's phone conversations. They went free pending the appeal court hearing.

They were acquitted of tapping Anastasi's telephone at The New York Times office in Athens on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

The appeal court will review both cases. No date has been set for the hearing.

Ethnos published extracts from conversations between Anastasi and an Athens lawyer in July 1983, soon after the journalist brought out his book, written in Greek, "Take the Nation In Your Hands." The title was a pun on Ethnos, which means "nation."

The paper claimed Anastasi was a CIA agent and said the published conversation proved he planned to murder staff members of the newspaper and destabilize democracy in Greece.

In December 1983, Anastasi was sentenced to two years in jail on libel charges in a suit brought by Bobolas. The sentence was later reduced to 12 months and was not carried out.

Ethnos claims a circulation of about 200,000 nationwide, representing more than 25 percent of all daily newspaper sales in Greece. It supports the Socialist government of Premier Andreas Papandreou.